

THE GOSPEL of

**MARK**

*All or Nothing*

## Gospel of Mark

- written by John Mark
- accounts from Peter inspired with intention

### 3 Big Chunks

Galilee – encountering Jesus, who is this?

Jerusalem – disciples struggling to understand

Journey to Jerusalem – how Jesus will fulfill the role of Messiah King

- Mark is cryptic, big picture with carefully chosen stories and details introducing you to Gospel

And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples,

“How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.” Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with

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Mark 10:17-31

persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”



## 1. Rich Young Ruler

\*what we can deduce.....

wealthy – had great possessions

religious – these I have kept from my youth

respectful – kneeling in front of Jesus

striving – concerned about eternity

\* look up to a guy like this, seemingly a blessed life

**a) Good Teacher.....**

- Jesus not simply a standout professor, wise in comparison
- Was God – perfect and sinless, only God is truly good
- creation tainted by sin – only God is able
- clarifying – do you see who I am

**b) What must I Do to inherit Eternal Life**

- wish to gain assurance of my standing, my place in eternity
- tell me what actions I can take to secure that
- \*religion – often deals with behavior modification & conformity
- \*Christianity – deals with heart and treasure – living up to

## 2. Jesus Responds

### a) You know the commandments.....

- yes – I have kept them from my youth.....
- possible to keep and action and have a wrong heart
- murder – Matt. 5:21 Jesus ties guilt to heart & intention
- commit adultery – Matt. 5:28 Jesus on Lust, heart & guilt
- stealing – Jesus on coveting in the heart
- 1 Cor. 13 – without love a clanging gong and banging symbol

### b) Looked at Him and Loved Him

- not to discourage or to destroy – love & desire for freedom

**c) Puts Finger on the real Issue – Treasure**

- First Command – No Other Gods Before Me
- heart of greatest commandment
- Matthew 22:38 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment”
- divest yourself of this treasure here, give it away and follow me
- understood – difficulty of surrendering his wealth, security, future, comforts – to follow Jesus
- disheartened – goes away

### 3. Jesus Teaches

#### a) Wealth brings Large Challenges

- 'how difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of heaven.'
- word picture terrific – camel through eye of needle!
- worse than hard or challenging – impossible by any standard
- \* we are the wealthy – by any standard we are incredibly wealthy
- \* statistics on our money and greed quite staggering
- \* charitable donation, meeting needs, participation in worlds pain
- \* 25% of Jesus teaching in this critical area – face a difficulty here

- the issue is one of the heart and treasure
- difficulty having faith, trust, dependence on God's provision
- difficulty in being grateful, free to respond, hearts after God
- cannot serve two masters, where your treasure is.....

### **b) Response of Disciples**

- amazed, exceedingly astonished
- common wisdom of the day – right living was rewarded with blessing. Seen by stuff, wealth, inheritance, influence
- part of the deal – be good and be rewarded
- question – who then could be saved?

#### 4. God is Able

##### a) all things possible with God

- man alone – can never pay the debt
- man cannot – change his heart, become alive
- story of God – doing the impossible for mankind
- time and again – delivering, restoring, out of love

##### b) what about us – Peter's question

- we left, sacrificed, said yes and followed
- promise of God – hundred-fold (many times) return

- now and in eternity – God sees heart & responds
- when that comes, how that looks – up to God
- promise that by faith you follow – trust him

**c) scale is God's not ours**

- first and last statement
- earthly experience not indicator of eternal reward

## So What?

### 1. Clear Truth

- obedience and love are tied in scripture
- religion reverses them, God says heart change brings behavior
- behavior modification without heart change not God's design

### 2. God Wants Your Heart

- no idols – things between us and our God
- desires our freedom – not enslaved by that which destroys

### 3. God will Expose our Idols

- Holy Spirit shows our idols

**5. Wealth is Hard to Handle Well**

- scripture gives great tools and practices
- money is neither good nor evil – how it is used & place in heart
- we are the rich – take this seriously

**6. Truth like this Causes us Concern**

- what about us, can we trust God's promise and reward
- what about persecution, disappointment, desire for stuff?

**7. God is Able**

- to do the impossible, change the heart of man, reward faithfully